

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

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Clerical Staff:

Miss D.R. PLASCOTT.

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,  
Alton Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing  
Designated Officer:

+ G.E. HARDY, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

ø + C.W.J. MANLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.P.H.H. .

(+ Holds Certificate for Meat and Food Inspector).

(ø Holds Smoke Inspector's Certificate).

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors:

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Woodside,  
Ross-on-Wye.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the health of the inhabitants during the year 1946. No instructions were received from the Council to report specifically upon any particular subject,

The climate during the year was unusual as heavy rainfall and floods occurred at a somewhat unexpected time of the year, but this assisted the water supplies of the area.

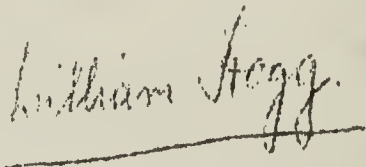
The health of the inhabitants throughout the period under review remained fairly satisfactory and no major epidemic of notifiable disease occurred.

I have to acknowledge assistance, most willingly given, by my colleagues in the preparation of this Report and in the discharge of my duties throughout the year.

Also I take this opportunity of placing on record my thanks for the continued support and assistance which the Council has given me.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William Hogg". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1947.



## SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:-

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District lies in the most southerly part of the County of Hereford, surrounding the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye, and is divided into eastern and western portions by the River Wye which follows a markedly winding course.

The scenery of the valley is very beautiful with many fine views, and it attracts large numbers of visitors during the summer months, especially in the Symonds Yat area where the Wye runs through a gorge.

The area is purely rural in character and every phase of agriculture is practised in some part of the area. The production of timber and limestone quarries in Corsley, Aston Ingham and Whitchurch provide a certain amount of employment.

### General Statistics:

Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	...	...	11,790
Area (in acres)	...	...	72,105
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1946)	...	...	3,322
Rateable Value	...	...	£42,844
The Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£184.16.10
Estimated Average Number of Persons per Inhabited House	...	...	3.5
Estimated Average Number of Persons per Acre	...	...	0.16
Average Number of Inhabited Houses per Acre	...	...	0.046

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ..	18.7
Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)	17.9
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude)	14.1

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

		<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births.</u>
Heading No. 29	... Puerperal Sepsis	NIL	NIL
Heading No. 30	... Other Puerperal Causes	1	4.5

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	27.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	29.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	NIL

### Population:

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population is 11,790 which compares with a figure of 11,650 for the previous year. This figure shows little variation from the census figures of 11,859 (1921) and 11,608 (1931). The natural increase of population, i.e. the excess of births over deaths was 54.

The estimated average number of persons per acre is 0.16 and the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.5. The average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.046.

### Births:

A total of 220 live births (123 males and 97 females) were registered, giving a birth rate of 18.7 per thousand of the estimated resident population, compared with 19.1 for England and Wales.

The number of illegitimate live births was 13 (8 males and 5 females) which is 5.9% of the total live births.

### Stillbirths:

There were 4 stillbirths registered, which gives a rate of 0.3 per thousand of the estimated resident population.

### Deaths:

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District is 166, after deduction of deaths of non-residents and the addition of deaths of residents which occurred outside the District. This gives a crude death rate of 14.1. A Table of Causes of Death according to sex is given at the end of this Report.

### Infant Mortality:

There were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 27.3 per 1,000 live births. All these deaths related to legitimate infants.

### Cancer Deaths:

There were 26 deaths (13 male and 13 female) attributed to cancer, giving a death rate of 2.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

### Diarrhoea Under Two Years:

There was one death of a female child attributed to this cause, which gives a rate of 0.08 per 1,000 estimated resident population.

## SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA:-

### Public Health Laboratory:-

The laboratory facilities remain unchanged and the Medical Research Council Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones continues to give most useful assistance to the Department and the medical practitioners of the District. The assistance given to the Department has not been limited to investigations in the laboratory, for Dr. Jones has given much valuable help with investigations in the field.

The following table gives a summary of the work carried out by the laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

#### Specimens Examined.

Swabs	...	...	...	...	28
Sputum	...	...	...	...	11
Urine	....	....	...	...	13
Faeces	...	...	...	...	1
Blood	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	7
Water - Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	114
Water Chemical	.	...	...	...	4

### Public Mortuary:-

The Council has arrangements with the Ross-on-Wye Urban District Council for the reception of bodies at the Public Mortuary, Ross-on-Wye. During the year 7 bodies were received from the Rural District.

### Water:-

The prevailing geological formation of the District is old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System with an outcrop of Silurian Limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop to Gorsley and Aston



Ingham. In the Parishes of Walford and Whitchurch there is an outcrop of Carboniferous Limestone along the southern border. The Silurian limestone contains some fossils whilst the Carboniferous limestone in the Whitchurch area is relatively poor in fossils but contains numerous caverns both artificial and natural. In parts of the District, a conglomerate rock can be seen marking the division of the old red sandstone into an upper and a lower series.

The old Red Sandstone is a porous rock, parts of which are fairly soft. During wet periods, numerous springs appear which rapidly disappear when dry weather supervenes.

The water supplies of the District are diverse in character. In the area immediately outside the Urban District boundary the mains of Statutory Undertakers (The Ross Water Undertaking) provide a supply in almost the whole of Ross Rural Parish and in portions of the Parishes of Bridstow, Walford and Weston-under-Penyard. The water supply obtained from these mains was adequate in quantity and of good potable quality throughout the year. This supply is constant and at adequate pressure for the area which it serves. Supplies to dwelling houses are provided by means of separate services which usually are carried inside the dwellings.

The water is derived from boreholes in the Old Red Sandstone at the Alton Court Water Works situated within the Urban District Boundary. After leaving the boreholes, it is treated by continuous automatic chlorination in the rising main. The quality of the water is controlled by samples taken by the Urban District Council both before and after chlorination. As a potable water it is of good quality but somewhat hard. It has no appreciable solvent action upon common metals.

The following table shows the number of dwellings connected to the mains according to Parish:-

Bridstow	...	...	...	...	...	114 Dwellings
Ross Rural	...	...	...	...	...	95 "
Weston-under-Penyard	...	...	...	...	...	5 "
Walford	...	...	...	...	...	35 "

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The Local Authority provides a piped water supply in the Villages of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway and Harewood End. Each of these Schemes gives a constant supply of water of good potable quality with no appreciable solvent action upon ordinary metals.

#### Brampton Abbots Supply:-

Brampton Abbots is supplied from water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. A small reservoir and pumping station with automatic electric pumps is provided by the Council. The scheme supplies 26 dwellings. The water is of excellent potable quality and was adequate in quantity during the year.

#### Garway Supply:-

This scheme makes use of a land spring which is impounded on high ground. The yield of the spring is subject to considerable variation with the climatic conditions, but up to the present has been adequate for the demand. The water is put into supply without preliminary treatment. The number of dwellings supplied is 43, of which 11 are supplied by means of 4 standpipes.

During the year, the Council had under consideration a proposal to extend the existing main from Garway Common to Broad Oak with a branch to supply farms and cottages at Penrose in the Parish of

St. Weonards. The cost of this extension has been approximately estimated and the proposal has received the approval of the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately the extension still awaits completion.

#### Llangarron:-

This piped water supply which supplies part of Llangarron Parish utilises spring water, which is pumped to reservoirs situated on appropriate levels. The water is passed into supply without preliminary treatment and is adequate for the present demands. The yield of the spring is subject to variation correlated with the rainfall. The scheme supplies 133 dwellings mostly by individual services but about 29 dwellings are supplied by 10 stand pipes.

The power for the pump is furnished from a water wheel with a diesel set as a stand by. A new pump was installed during March for the water wheel drive to replace the old three stroke pump. Flooding of the river is liable to interfere with this supply.

#### Llancloudy:-

This is a separate scheme which supplies the Llancloudy area of Llangarron Parish. The water of a land spring is collected and piped to 20 dwellings and a Prisoner of War Camp.

As the quality of this water has not been entirely satisfactory a chlorinator is provided. This supply has been inadequate for the demand in the past. This now appears to have been overcome as a result of the action of the Ministry of Works, whereby a break-out spring was diverted into the reservoir of the Local Authority as a temporary measure.

#### Harewood End Supply:-

This small scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. Water is pumped from a shallow well by power supplied by an overshot water wheel with an internal combustion engine as an auxiliary power unit. The scheme supplies 19 dwellings by piped services.

If all the schemes of the Local Authority are considered together, it will be seen that 201 dwellings within the area are supplied from mains by services and a further 40 from standpipes on the main.

In addition to the piped supplies provided by Statutory Undertakers and the Local Authority, there are a number of small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals. The private mains afford supplies in the parishes of Eridstow, Brockhampton, Foy, Ganarew, Goodrich, Hentland, Hope Mansell, How Caple, Kings Caple, Lea, Marstow, Pencoyd, Weston, Harewood, Upton Bishop, Whitchurch, Walford, St. Weonards and Welsh Newton. These schemes utilise water from a variety of sources and are of various degrees of mechanical soundness. The Department cannot exercise more than a slight supervision of these supplies. The number of dwellings supplied varies from two to about thirty in the largest. The total number obtaining supplies from these private mains cannot exceed 350.

The remaining dwellings are supplied from public or private wells and a significant number depend upon the collection of rain water. These wells are usually of the shallow type and many cannot be regarded as satisfactory sources of potable water.

In general, it can be truthfully said that the existing water supplies of the area are not adequate in quantity and that part of the population is obliged to rely upon waters of indifferent potable quality. These deficiencies are not uniformly distributed in the area but the parishes of Whitchurch, Sellack, Hentland, St. Weonards, Goodrich, Peterstow and Ballingham have most pressing needs.



Being aware that the water supplies of the area were not entirely satisfactory, the Council gave further consideration to the possibility of providing an adequate supply to the whole area. A number of such schemes prepared by Mr. W. Brown, who joined the Council's technical staff, were considered and explored but no decision to proceed with any of the suggested schemes was made. However, the Council is still exploring the ways and means of providing an adequate supply of potable water throughout the District.

The very large number of separate sources of supply renders control of potable waters by your Officers almost impossible, so a few routine samples and samples where waters are suspected represents the results of the year. The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 114 and the number of samples submitted for chemical examination was 4.

It may be remarked that the number of bacteriological samples submitted was greatly in excess of the number of chemical samples. Furthermore a full examination of a water is usually understood to be an examination by both methods of investigation. This is quite true, but a bacteriological examination is useful as a rapid test for routine purposes and as confirmation of waters where pollution is suspected. In spite of all the difficulties of control, no serious outbreak of water-borne disease occurred amongst the inhabitants of the District.

The Council found that the inadequate water supplies within the area were a restrictive factor in connection with plans for post war housing, and further schemes will need to be developed if the full housing needs are to be met.

There were no new public sources of supply put into operation during the year, but the following extensions of mains were carried out by the Ross Water Undertaking to the Undertaking's mains:-

Walford Parish	...	998 yards - 3" main.
Bridstow Parish	...	133 yards.- 2" main.

#### Drainage and Sewerage:-

In conjunction with a comprehensive water scheme, the Council gave brief consideration for a general scheme of sewerage for the District, but the practical difficulties discouraged any serious pursuit of such a scheme.

The objection to such a scheme is of course the prohibitive cost as it would require many miles of trunk sewers and some pumping stations to overcome the contours in the area.

Sewerage schemes for sparsely populated rural areas, can be developed only, and indeed are necessary, where a number of dwellings exist in close proximity. The isolated dwellings must continue to make use of the existing arrangement, usually a tank, with or without a filter, and disposal of the effluent by sub-irrigation.

Where groups of dwellings exist, a small disposal plant can be installed at a reasonable cost, and these require little maintenance and may not require power for pumping.

At the present time, no publicly owned disposal arrangements for the treatment of sewage from a group of premises is in existence in any part of the District. A crude tank and short length of private sewer exists at Hildersley in Ross Rural Parish. This continued to give rise to nuisance during the latter half of the year.

There are two short lengths of public sewer in the parishes of Upton Bishop and Goodrich. No extensions of either public or private

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sewers were made during the year and no major improvements in the adequacy of arrangements for drainage, sewerage or sewage were carried out.

The number of new drains constructed in connection with dwelling houses was 49, and 7 new drains were constructed for other premises. One old drain was reconstructed and put into sound repair.

#### Rivers and Streams:

As has already been stated the winding course of the River Wye divides the District into eastern and western parts, these being very approximately equal in area. The River Garron runs through the western side receiving its tributary, the Gamber, at Llangarron, and finally joins the River Wye at Old Forge, Goodrich. On the south western boundary the River Monnow adjoins the District for approximately four miles.

All these rivers flow through rural country and are clean and unobjectionable, the proof of this lies in the fact that game fish are plentiful.

No action by the Department or by the Council to secure abatement of river pollution was necessary during the year.

All these rivers are prone to cause flooding, and the year 1946 was marked by flooding by the Wye in the month of September, when the water level is generally at its lowest. Flooding can affect health by interfering with water supplies and damaging dwellings. There is increased risk to life during times of flood.

#### Closet Accommodation:

The commonest form of closet in use in the District is the pail closet and it is estimated that 70% of the inhabitants use such closets. A further 20% of the inhabitants are still obliged to make use of privies and it is estimated that only the remaining 10% are provided with water closets. The deficiency in the more general use of water closets is due to the inadequacy of piped water supplies.

During the year, five privies and ten pail closets were converted to water closets. There were no conversions of privies to pail closets.

#### Public Cleansing:

There is no system of domestic refuse collection within the District, each householder being responsible for the disposal or lack of disposal of his own domestic refuse. Lack of this collection has encouraged indiscriminate disposal and the Council decided to operate a system of collection. At the time of writing this has not yet commenced.

The Council does not undertake the collection and disposal of trade refuse nor does it carry out the cleansing of cesspools or privies.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:-

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1946, furnished in accordance with Article 27(sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

#### Inspections:-

General Sanitation	...	...	...	...	...	19
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	25
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	Nil



Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	107
Farms and Dairies	...	...	...	...	..	360
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	5
Filthy and Verminous Persons	...	...	...	...	...	5
Factories (without Mechanical Power)	..	...	...	...	...	29
Factories (with Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	..	10
Housing Consolidated Regs.	...	...	...	...	...	473
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	154
Hop and Fruit Pickers Premises	..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	27
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	61
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rats & Mice Act.	..	...	...	...	...	2
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	10
Smoke Observations	..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	7
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	203
Work Places	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	83
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	4
Statutory (other Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	15

#### Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Defective Walls and Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	37
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective Grates	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective closets	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	7
Filthy premises	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Supply and Storage	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	5

#### Common Lodging Houses:-

There are no common lodging houses situated within the District.

#### Shops and Offices:-

No action was necessary during the year under the Shops Act, 1934, regarding ventilation and temperature of shops or sanitary conveniences. These premises also required no action by the Council under the Public Health Act, 1936.

#### Camping Sites:-

Two school harvest camps were situated within the district during the month of August and the usual supervision was given by the Department. These camps appear to have been very successful.

Four sites within the area were used for camping purposes during 1946, and it is estimated that the maximum number of campers on any particular day did not exceed 140. One site was licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for camping purposes.

#### Factories Act, 1937:-

The number of factories with mechanical power registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year was 9 and the number without mechanical power so registered was 29. No action was required by the Department under this Act respecting any of the registered



premises.

#### Swimming Baths and Pools:-

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public on payment within the Rural District. The River Wye appears to be the most favoured place for swimmers but this use is not without its dangers.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs:-

There were no Council Houses or other houses found to be infested with bed bugs and no disinfestations were required.

#### School Closures:-

There were no school closures for health reasons during the year. Of the common infectious diseases, mumps appears to have been prevalent amongst school children as head teachers notified 50 cases occurring in the schools, 47 of which were received during the months of February, March and April.

The condition of the school premises within the District remained substantially unchanged, and a number of the schools are in need of redecoration.

#### SECTION D - HOUSING:-

So far as housing is concerned, when the difficulties prevailing at the present time are taken into consideration, it can be stated that the Council made fairly satisfactory progress. Before 31st December, eight permanent dwellings were completed, these were 4 Type "D" Swedish Houses in Lea parish and 4 Type "A" Swedish Houses in Walford parish. These are of the permanent prefabricated type and are very satisfactory rural dwellings.

In addition the construction of 42 other dwellings were commenced but were not completed at the end of the year. The distribution of these dwellings according to parish is given by the following table:-

Brampton Abbots	...	...	...	4
Garway	...	...	...	4
Harewood End	...	...	...	8
Llangarron	...	...	...	6
Marstow	...	...	...	8
Upton Bishop	...	...	...	4
Walford	...	...	...	4
Weston (Pontshill)	...	...	...	4

During the year, private owners completed the erection of one dwelling in each of the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Marstow, Ross Rural and Whitchurch. In addition private persons commenced the erection of 13 dwellings but did not secure completion before the end of the year. These dwellings are distributed as shown in the following table:-

Bridstow	...	...	...	1
Lea	...	...	...	1
Marstow	...	...	...	4
Peterstow	...	...	...	2
Walford	...	...	...	2
Weston-under-Penyard	...	...	...	1
Whitchurch	...	...	...	2

The primary housing need of the District is new dwellings. Since the population has remained almost unchanged for the previous twenty-five years, the truth of this statement may be questioned. The answer is that whilst the population has remained steady the number of separate

families has increased for the tendency towards small families has been very marked. At the beginning of the century families were fewer in number but each family contained a higher average number of persons. Today the large family is exceptional.

Also it must be remembered that dwellings, like machines and man himself, wear out with the passage of time. New dwellings are therefore needed to replace those worn out.

In addition, the importance of housing upon health has been generally recognised and overcrowding of dwellings is limited by statute. There is also the changed national circumstances to be considered. This has brought about a change in the character of agriculture, and increased the demand for labour. This is a reversal of previous experience and rural areas must accommodate the population necessary to meet the demand.

#### Overcrowding:-

Since the average number of persons per occupied house is only 3.5 the amount of overcrowding must be relatively small. This view is supported by the fact that only four dwellings were found to be overcrowded within the legal standard. Nevertheless dwellings do become overcrowded from time to time and it must be remembered that the definition of overcrowding contained in Section 57 of the Housing Act 1935 does not fix an unduly high standard.

#### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... ..	627
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	883
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1935 and 1932 ... ..	473
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .	729
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	82
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	372

#### Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	83
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#### Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-	
(a) By owners ... ..	2



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(b) By Local Authority in default of  
owners. ... .. Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which  
Notices were served requiring defects to be  
remedied ... .. 15
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects  
were remedied after service of formal  
Notices:-
- (a) By owners ... .. 4
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which  
Demolition Orders were made ... .. Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in  
pursuance of Demolition Orders v .. .. Nil

Proceedings Under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground  
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders  
were made ... .. Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground  
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were  
determined, the tenement or room having been  
rendered fit ... .. Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

- (a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end  
of the year ... .. Nil
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... Nil
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... Nil
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during  
the year ... .. 4
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved  
during the year ... .. 4
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 30

Rural Housing Survey:-

This work was continued throughout the year whenever  
opportunity presented itself and 473 dwellings appropriate to the survey  
were inspected and classified. The result is shown in the following table:-

Group 1	...	...	...	...	19
Group 2	...	...	...	...	88
Group 3/4	..	...	...	...	284
Group 5	...	...	...	...	82

473

The distribution of these dwellings according to parish is  
shown in the following table:-



Analysis of Inspections carried out  
during period  
1.1.1946 to 31.12.46.

Parish.	Classification				Total number of houses inspected.
	1	2	3/4	5	
Llangarron	12	37	103	32	184
Marstow		2	4	1	7
Whitchurch	6	42	143	35	226
Inspections of above Parishes completed.					
Ganarew		3	20	7	30
Garway			1		1
Goodrich			1		1
Hope Mansel			1		1
How Caple		1			1
Linton	1		2		3
Ross Rural		1			1
St. Weonards			2	2	4
Upton Bishop			1	1	2
Walford			3		3
Welsh Newton				1	1
Weston		2	3	2	7
Yatton				1	1
Total	19	88	284	82	473
Add Total Inspections from 1945.	35	210	415	82	742
Grand Total	54	298	699	164	1,215

Classifications - Group 1. Houses fit in all respects for habitation.  
 Group 2. Houses requiring minor repairs and/or alterations.  
 Group 3. Houses requiring major repairs and/or alterations.  
 Group 4. alterations.  
 Group 5. Houses scheduled for demolition.

I am obliged to Mr. Hardy, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for the following account of the progress of the housing and water supplies during the year.:-

Housing Programme, 1946:-

" During the year some progress has been made in the erection of new houses for this District.

In January the foundations were commenced for four Swedish Houses at Lea, and four Swedish Houses at Walford. These were completed and occupied by September.

In April four more Swedish houses were commenced at Walford, and eight at Glewstone, but these were not completed by December.

Plans and sites were approved for 34 permanent brick houses, as follows:-

Brampton Abbotts.	...	...	4	houses.
Pontshill,	...	...	4	"
Upton Bishop.	...	...	4	"
Garway.	...	...	4	"
Llangarron.	...	...	6	"
Harewood End.	...	...	8	"
Brockhampton.	...	...	4	"

These contracts were let out to four different local Contractors and the work commenced during March and April. It was anticipated they would be completed by December but, owing to the inclement weather and shortage of labour, the progress was retarded.

The Building Sites Sub-Committee have visited sites in several Parishes in preparation for the second year's programme in 1947, which include:- Weston-under-Penyard, Ballingham, King's Caple, Peterstow, Bridstow, Whitchurch, Hoarwithy, How Caple, Yatton, Llanwarne, Tretire, Welsh Newton, Brockhampton and Hope Mansel.

#### Water Supplies:-

"I have prepared a scheme for an extension to the Garway Water Scheme which has been approved by the Ministry. This extension will afford a supply of water to Broad Oak which, at present, has no piped supply and suffers in every drought period. The scheme also provides a supply to Garway Court and the small adjoining properties.

This extension scheme has been asked for for a considerable period, and the tender of Mr. Lake, of Chepstow, for £2,698 has been accepted and it is hoped that the scheme will be started in 1947.

Considerable time and thought has been given by the Council on a Comprehensive Water Scheme for the whole of the District, but no decision has yet been reached on this project."

#### SECTION E. - THE INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD:-

##### Milk:-

The supervision of milk supplies continues to occupy a significant portion of the time of the Sanitary Inspectors. Ultimately it is possible that this work may cease to be a duty of the Council. Until the actual transfer of duties it is necessary for this control to be carefully exercised. Generally speaking all producers do endeavour to produce milk as best as they are able but the viewpoint of the producer differs from that of the Public Health Officer. The latter's chief interest is in safe milk.

During the year a systematic survey of the water supplies to Registered premises was commenced but at the time of writing this is not yet complete. The number of water supplies sampled to the end of the year was 64.

At the end of 1945, there were 293 premises Registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. During the year a number of cancellations were made and on the 31st December, 1946, this number had been reduced to 240. This total was made up as follows:-

(i)	Wholesale purveyors	...	...	119
(ii)	Retail purveyors	...	...	74
(iii)	Wholesale and retail purveyors			47



There were 360 inspections of Registered premises made during the year.

There are no pasteurisation plants situated within the district and no licences for the sale of pasteurised milk were issued by the Council. The sale of heat treated milk within the District is insignificant.

Thirty one informal notices were served regarding the structure of cowsheds and at the end of the year, compliance with the notice had been secured for 18 premises. The number of cleansing notices served was ten.

Five samples of milk were submitted for examination for tuberculosis and all were reported as satisfactory. One sample of ungraded milk was sent for bacteriological examination and was found to be very satisfactory. There was no evidence at any time during the year that milk produced or sold within the District was liable to produce disease.

#### Ice Cream:-

The sale of ice cream reappeared during the early Spring after an absence of some years as a result of wartime conditions. The first war product is probably less nutritious than the pre-war product, but it is still a popular food.

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream was 1, and 4 premises were Registered for the storage or sale of this commodity. No instance of illness attributed to ice cream consumed within the area was reported.

The risk of contamination of this food depends upon the care used in handling and the cleanliness of the premises, and is increased where the catering facilities are of the temporary type. Considerable care must therefore be exercised when this food is sold at agricultural and other shows and fêtes as the facilities are of a very temporary nature.

#### Water Cress:-

This food grows wild in a number of places in the District. There are no commercial beds within the area and the sale of water cress during the year was very small. No action was required by the Department regarding this, and no illness was attributed to the consumption of infected water cress.

#### Shell fish:-

No action by the Department was necessary in connection with shell fish offered for sale. The sale of shell fish appears to be very small, for the oysters sold within the District (Californian blue points) are now expensive, and the consumption of mussels has always been very small in this locality. Cooked and salted cockles appear to have a small steady sale and these usually obtained from Newport, Monmouth.

#### Other Foods:-

There are now no slaughter houses in operation within the area, as these have remained closed since the early war period. All meat is obtained by traders from the regional abbatoirs of the Ministry of Food.

The following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

Salmon	...	...	...	...	6 tins
Peas	...	...	...	...	2 tins
National Irish Stew	...	...	...	...	10 tins
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	1 tin



Sausage	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Pig Carcase (less head)	...	...	...	...	1 .

Food and Drug Act, 1938, Section 17:-

No notifications of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning were received during the year.

SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year showed a reduction from 422 confirmed cases of all diseases in 1945, to 118 confirmed civilian cases. This reduction was a result of the great decrease in the prevalence of measles.

The following table gives the incidence of infectious disease for the year (confirmed civilian cases only):-

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING YEAR 1946

Disease.	Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Measles	4	-	-
Pneumonia	14	-	7
Diphtheria	1	2	-
Scarlet Fever	21	11	-
Whooping Cough	72	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-

It will be seen that the incidence of whooping cough rose from 8 cases in 1945, to a total of 72 for the year, but dysentery was reduced from 12 in 1945, to 1 case, scarlet fever incidence remained almost unchanged, and pneumonia showed a slight increase from 5 cases in 1945, to 14 cases. The notification of malaria, after enquiry, was believed to have been contracted abroad and not acquired in England.

The deaths attributed to notifiable infectious disease were limited to seven deaths due to pneumonia.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable disease according to sex:-

(Confirmed civilian cases only)

Disease	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Measles	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	3	2	1	1	5	-	1	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	4	2	3	6	4	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	9	10	25	23	3	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
All Diseases	3	4	16	17	33	30	9	6

It will be seen that the third quarter of the year gave rise to most notifications and that these were mostly notifications of whooping cough.

Scarlet Fever appeared in the second quarter and the incidence remained fairly steady for the remainder of the year with a slight rise in the third quarter. The geographical distribution of these cases was:-

Whitchurch area	...	...	8 cases
Walford	"	...	2 "
Llangrove	"	...	3 "
Hentland	"	...	3 "
Gorsley	"	...	3 "
Foy	"	...	2 "

Two of the Whitchurch cases originated in one dwelling as did also two of the Llangrove cases. The remaining cases gave little to suggest a common source of infection although this could not be excluded.

The incidence of mumps occurring in school children was somewhat higher than usual as fifty-one cases of this disease was reported by head teachers. These were more or less evenly distributed throughout the area as ten schools reported cases.

The efficiency of notification is very satisfactory and there is excellent co-operation with the medical practitioners in the District.

The following table give the incidence of infectious disease for the year according to various age groups:-

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE.

Disease.	Under													Totals
	1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+		
Measles	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	1	3	5	14	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	1	3	7	6	1	2	-	-	-	21	
Whooping Cough	6	3	9	3	6	38	3	-	2	2	-	-	72	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Cerbro-spinal Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
Totals	6	6	10	4	10	47	11	1	10	4	4	5	118	

#### Diphtheria Immunisation:-

The scheme for securing the immunisation of children against diphtheria continued substantially unchanged throughout the year. This work is carried out in part by the Department and in part by the medical practitioners, who have given great assistance in this work.

The following table shows the number of children who received complete courses of diphtheria prophylactic during the year:-



## NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED ACCORDING TO QUARTERS.

Quarters.	Age Groups.		
	0 - 4 years.	5 - 14 years.	0 - 14 years.
1st Quarter	15	1	16
2nd Quarter	34	1	35
3rd Quarter	28	1	29
4th Quarter	35	3	38
Year	112	6	118

In addition, eleven children who had previously completed courses of prophylactic received a reinforcing dose. In general A.P.T. is used for the vast majority of injections, but T.A.F. is the preparation used for reinforcing injections in elder children.

At the end of the year 432 children under five years of age were known to have received complete courses of diphtheria prophylactic, in an estimated population in this age group of 957. Expressed in another way 44% of this age group were presumed to be protected. In an estimated population of 1,740 persons aged over five years and under fifteen years of age, 1,563 persons or 90% had received treatment before the end of the year.

It will be seen that there is still a need for further improvement especially in the under five years of age group and in the number of reinforcing doses given. It is probably that the Council's records under estimate rather than over estimate the true position.

Some benefit may have been derived from the protection given, for no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year as having occurred in children under fifteen years of age, and there were no deaths attributed to this cause.

Scabies:-

Twelve cases of scabies were notified to the Department during the year and appropriate action was taken.

Tuberculosis:-

At the beginning of the year there were 69 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 47 pulmonary and 22 non-pulmonary cases. During the year 25 cases were added, 22 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary, of these, 9 pulmonary were with respect to new cases. Sixteen cases were removed from the register during the year, 15 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary. At the end of the year therefore, 78 cases remained on the register, 54 pulmonary and 24 non-pulmonary cases.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
15+	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25+	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
55+	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
65+	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	4	5	-	-	9	2	1	-



During the year 5 samples of milk were submitted for biological examination for tuberculosis, in connection with the prevention of the spread of this disease. All samples showed negative results.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Female.	Persons.
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	9	2	11
7.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	1	-	1
9.	Influenza.	1	3	4
13a.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and oesophagus	-	-	-
b.	Cancer of Uterus.	-	1	1
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
15.	Cancer of Breast	-	6	6
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	11	5	16
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions.	4	8	12
19.	Heart Disease.	20	24	44
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System.	2	-	2
21.	Bronchitis.	3	3	6
22.	Pneumonia.	4	3	7
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases.	2	-	2
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	3	2	5
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years of age.	-	1	1
26.	Appendicitis.	1	-	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases.	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis.	7	6	13
30.	Maternal Causes (other than sepsis)	-	1	1
31.	Premature Birth.	1	-	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury etc.,	2	-	2
33.	Suicide.	2	1	3
34.	Road Traffic Accident.	1	-	1
35.	Other Violent Causes.	3	2	5
36.	All Other Causes.	8	6	14
	All Causes.	90	76	166







